



Course Syllabus: Invertebrate Zoology

College of Science and Mathematics

BIOL 3644 Section 101
Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

A survey of the structure, function, systematics, and habitats of the protist and invertebrate phyla.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Lecture Text: Invertebrates, 3rd Edition, by Richard C. Brusca, Wendy Moore, and Stephen M. Shuster, 2016.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

TBD

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2025-2026](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Lecture Test #1	18.75
Lecture Test #2	18.75
Lecture Test #3	18.75
Final Exam	18.75
Lab Grade	25
Total Percentage	100

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

Lecture Exams

There will be four, equally-weighted major exams (including the final exam) that will each be worth 18.75% of your overall grade for the class. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive but will cover all of the material since the previous exam. Exams will usually contain various types of testing formats (i.e. multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, listing, drawing/labeling, and short answer). Make-up exams will be administered ONLY FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OR UNIVERSITY-AUTHORIZED ABSENCES. You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to make up a missed lecture exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it should be taken immediately (i.e. before exams are passed back to the class). **DO NOT MISS AN EXAM!!!!** Academic honesty must be practiced at all times.

Final Exam

Final exam will count 18.75% of your overall grade for the class, will contain various types of testing formats (i.e. multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, listing, drawing/labeling, and short answer), and will be administered from 8:00-10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 8, 2026.

Extra Credit

Extra credit assignments are not available.

Make Up Tests

Make-up exams will be administered ONLY FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OR UNIVERSITY-AUTHORIZED ABSENCES. You **MUST** present a valid university excuse to me and/or make arrangements with me **BEFORE** the exam is missed in order to be able to make up a missed lecture exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it should be taken immediately (i.e. before exams are passed back to the class).

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 27, 2026.
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": November 23, 2026.
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. A lot of material is presented in each class period, which makes it easy to fall behind if a class is missed. If you miss a class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get class notes from classmates or any handouts from your instructor. Students with excessive absences usually result in failure of the course and may be dropped by the instructor. Students should refer to the current MSU Handbook and Activities Calendar for university policy on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights and activities. For example see page 6 for the student honor creed.

Aids for Success

MAKE SURE YOU READ YOUR TEXTBOOK! Most of the material for exams will be derived from the textbook and notes. Read the chapter(s) assigned for each class period. Lectures should correspond to the chapters indicated on your syllabus. Take thorough lecture notes to make sure you get material covered in lecture that is not in the text.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Class Prerequisites: One year of biology, each course with a grade of C or better; 3114 recommended.

Class Requirements: This class contains both a lecture and separate lab component to it. You must be registered in both the lecture and lab and attend both.

PHONES SHOULD BE **OFF** IN THE CLASSROOM. LAPTOPS ALLOWED FOR NOTE TAKING.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational

programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university

campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week and Dates	Topics/Exams	Chapters
Week 1 8/25 to 8/27	Introductory Material; Protists	1, 4, 3
Week 2 9/1 to 9/3	Protists; Porifera, Placozoa	3, 6
Week 3 9/8 to 9/10	Porifera, Placozoa; Cnidaria	6, 7
Week 4 9/15	Ctenophora; Xenacoelomorpha	8, 9
9/17	Test #1	1, 3, 4, 6-9
Week 5 9/22 to 9/24	Platyhelminthes; Misc. Protostomes: Rhombozoa, Orthonectida, Chaetognatha, Gastrotricha	10, 11
Week 6 9/29 to 10/1	Misc. Protostomes: Rhombozoa, Orthonectida, Chaetognatha, Gastrotricha; Nemertea; Mollusca	11, 12, 13
Week 7 10/6 to 10/8	Mollusca; Annelida; Entoprocta, Cyclophora	13, 14, 15
10/13	Test #2	10-15

Week and Dates	Topics/Exams	Chapters
Week 8 10/15	Gnathostomulida, Rotifera (w/ Acanthocephala), Micrognathozoa; Lophophorates: Phoronida, Bryozoa, Brachiopoda	16, 17
Week 9 10/20 to 10/22	Lophophorates: Phoronida, Bryozoa, Brachiopoda; Nematoda, Nematomorpha	17, 18
Week 10 10/27 to 10/29	Nematoda, Nematomorpha; Kinorhyncha, Priapula, Loricifera; Tardigrada, Onychophora	18, 19, 20
Week 11 11/3 to 11/5	Tardigrada, Onychophora, & Arthropoda Intro; Arthropoda: Crustacea	20, 21
11/10	Test #3	16-21
Week 12 11/12	Arthropoda: Hexapoda	22
Week 13 11/17 to 11/19	Arthropoda: Hexapoda, Myriapoda, Chelicerata	22, 23, 24
Week 14 11/24	Arthropoda: Chelicerata; Echinodermata	24, 25
11/26	Thanksgiving Break	Have some turkey!
Week 15 12/1 to 12/3	Echinodermata; Hemichordata; Chordata	25, 26, 27
12/8	Final Exam (8:00-10:00 AM)	22-27